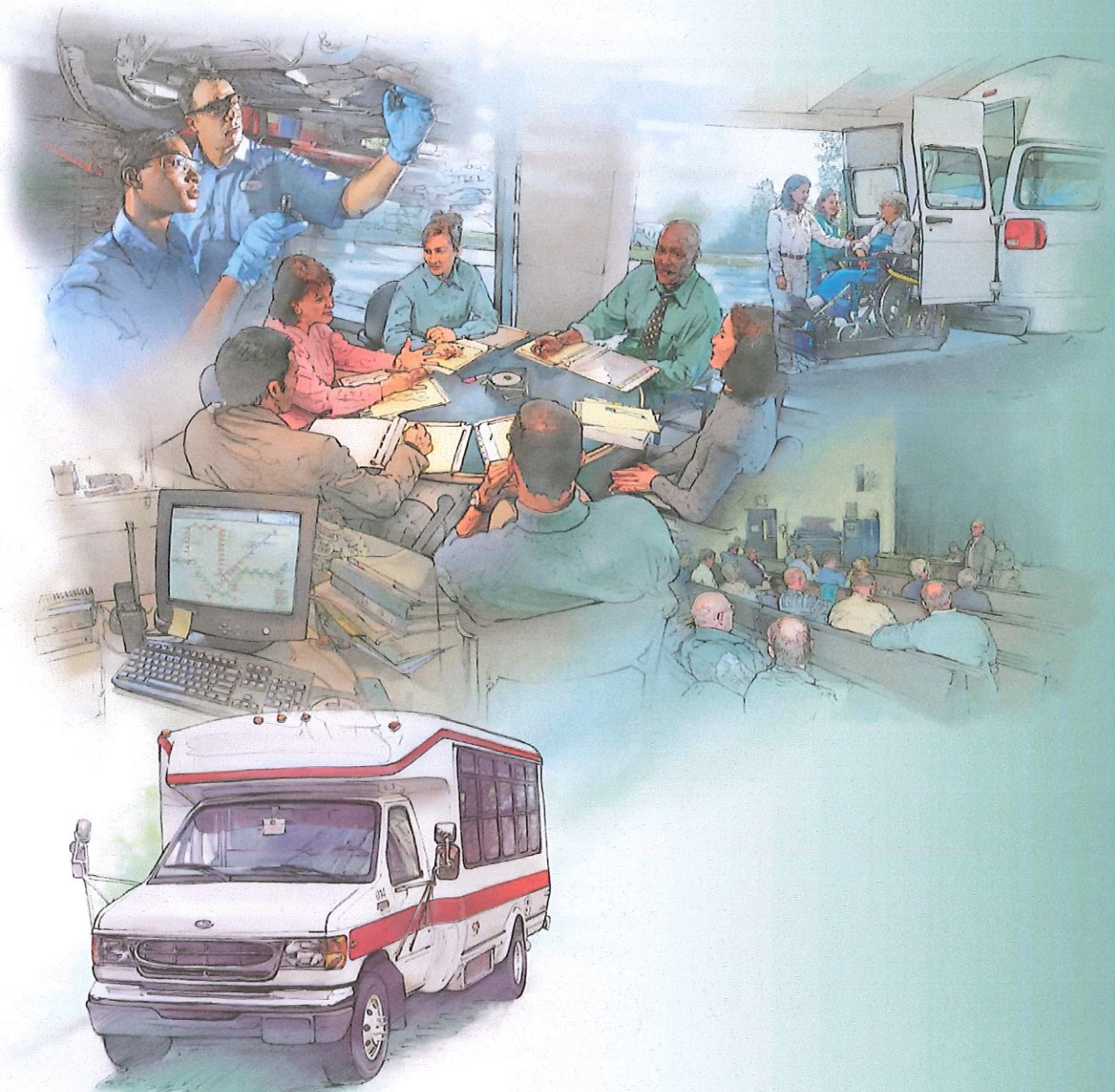


Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, and Putnam Counties

Final

November 2017



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following plan is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, and Putnam Counties. The Hancock Hardin Wyandot Putnam Community Action Commission (HHWP CAC) is the lead agency in Hancock County and also has office locations in each of the counties represented in this plan. As such, HHWP CAC recognizes the unique stakeholders and characteristics of each participating county and stakeholder. The planning process was structured so that while each county has a plan which highlights its local stakeholders, needs, etc., the goals were agreed upon as a region and are regional in nature.

This plan fulfills the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, signed into law as a reauthorization of surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2020. According to requirements of the FAST Act, locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans must be updated to reflect the changes established by the FAST Act legislation. The FAST Act applies new programs and rules for all Fiscal Year 2016 funds and authorizes transit programs for five (5) years.

Transportation is a critical component of the communities in Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, and Putnam Counties. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, health care, human services and allows all community members, including older adults and people with disabilities, to live independently and engage in community life. It is the purpose of this plan for stakeholders in each county to work collaboratively to do the following activities:

1. Identify all community resources for transportation.
2. Identify and prioritize community transportation needs.
3. Establish a clear plan for achieving shared goals.

Fundamental to the Coordinated Transportation Plan process is the active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders. For projects selected for funding under the Section 5310/5311 programs, participation in planning activities in each county included participation and/or representation from seniors; individuals with disabilities; people with low incomes; transportation providers; human service agencies; and the general public.

In order to ensure appropriate representation and a consistent planning process across the region, public and stakeholder input was gathered through a series of public meetings, community surveys, employer surveys, and transportation provider/human service agency surveys. The meeting process and surveys were conducted in a similar manner throughout each county to allow for individual but comparable results. The goals and priorities for improving transportation in each county mirror the regional goals. The Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot and Putnam region will do the following:

1. Encourage cooperation and communication among stakeholders to meet transportation needs.
2. Work to increase knowledge of available transportation options among the general public as well as influencers of local public opinion.
3. Work to provide operational funding options and to support and expand accessible transportation options.
4. Identify and fill gaps in transportation service and unmet needs.

The regional plan was adopted at a meeting on November 9, 2017 in Findlay/Hancock County. It was open to the public.

The individual county plans were developed and adopted by a planning committee of local stakeholders in each participating county. HHWP CAC will maintain the regional coordinated plan consisting of individual county plans and will help as needed throughout the region to facilitate future planning, amendments, or updates.